

The Electric Mercury

U.S. Army Medical Command Electronic News Summary, April 2001

**For more on these and other important stories, see April 2001 printed issue of The Mercury.
This is a service of the Public Affairs Office, Headquarters MEDCOM.**

Survey says beneficiaries are happy

Beneficiaries are more satisfied with military health care, according to a recent study. The most significant increases in satisfaction were in access and quality of care, particularly among TRICARE Prime enrollees. The percentage of all Prime enrollees who were satisfied with access was 74 percent in 1998, versus 63 percent pre-TRICARE. The percentage satisfied with quality was 82 percent, versus 73 percent pre-TRICARE.

Legislation changes TRICARE copays

The 2001 National Defense Authorization Act contains great news for active-duty service members and their families. One provision that's sure to please is the elimination by the end of April of copayments for active-duty family members enrolled in TRICARE Prime. Another piece of good news is a simplified copay structure for prescription drugs.

Top NCO discusses black berets

A test on the Army's history is a "rite of passage" soldiers will be required to undergo in the future before donning their black berets, says Sergeant Major of the Army Jack L. Tilley. Tilley answers questions about the beret and explains why Army chose black.

New signature system will spare printers

Soon Army Medical Department soldiers and civilian employees will be able to attach personal signatures to forms in the AMEDD Electronic Forms Support System (AEFSS, or "FormFlow") and send those forms anywhere in the world electronically. Fielding of the ApproveIt system to some 40,000 AEFSS users at 110 sites should begin in April.

Transformation on track

The AMEDD is right in the middle of Army transformation, focusing on people and supporting the "well-being" axis, writes LTG James B. Peake in his column. He explains how Balanced Score Cards will keep the AMEDD aligned as it moves into a changing future, juggling the missions that constitute medical readiness.

Other important stories in the April *Mercury* include:

- AMEDD planners draw up prototype Balanced Score Cards to give major subordinate commands, regional medical commands and MEDDACs a new tool to manage strategy.
- The 2001 TRICARE Stakeholder's Report can be downloaded from the Web at http://www.tricare.osd.mil/stakeholders/downloads/stakeholders_2001.pdf
- TRICARE no longer dominates the list of troop concerns for Marine Corps enlisted leaders, Corps commandant tells annual all-service TRICARE conference.
- TRICARE Pacific Region; Tripler Army Medical Center; Fort Riley and Fort Leonard Wood MEDDACs; and Landstuhl Regional Medical Center get TRICARE awards.
- Fort Hood air-ambulance crew rescues driver, children from school bus in river.
- Landstuhl team helps American families attending Pan Am 103 bombing trial.
- 30th Medical Brigade supports Green Beret battalion training Nigerian soldiers.
- MedFalcon medics win friends for U.S. by treating Kosovo Serbs hurt by bus bomb.
- Software lets medical units practice handling nuclear-biological-chemical casualties.
- Elizabeth Clabaugh, Fort Hood MEDDAC, is Health Benefits Advisor of the Year.
- SFC Charlie Beverly, Landstuhl, is MEDCOM's Career Counselor of Year.
- Information Management Awards go to CPT Jeremy Meller, Fort Leavenworth; Paula Coffman, Europe Regional Medical Command; SSG James Dycus, Dental Command.
- CPT Heather Powell, Heidelberg MEDDAC, performs in traveling soldier show.
- Dwayne Dunn, Wuerzburg MEDDAC, trains for spot on U.S. national track team.
- Photos: Special Forces medics check wild horse's teeth; quilt made by volunteer decorates Womack Army Medical Center; World War I ambulance shown at conference.
- On comments page, LTC Charles Schuman explains how Army medical treatment facilities don't just do daily patient care but also play critical roles in Army readiness.

● Article from Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine says most people who use computers a lot suffer eyestrain. Article suggests ways to minimize problem.